AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-33 (cancel).

Claim 34 (New) A method for delaying, repressing or otherwise reducing the expression of a target gene in an animal cell comprising introducing an RNA nucleic acid molecule to the cell, wherein the RNA nucleic acid molecule includes a transcription product of a genetic construct comprising at least two copies of a structural gene sequence, wherein said structural gene sequence comprises a nucleotide sequence which is at least 80% identical to at least a region of said target gene, wherein at least one copy of said structural gene sequence is placed operably in the sense orientation and wherein at least one other copy of said structural gene sequence is placed operably in the antisense orientation.

Claim 35 (New) The method of claim 34 wherein said at least two copies are operably under the control of a single promoter.

Claim 36 (New) The method of claim 34 wherein said at least one copy is operably under the control of a first promoter and said at least one other is operably under the control of a second promoter.

Claim 37 (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein said RNA nucleic acid molecule consists essentially of ribonucleotides.

Claim 38 (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein said RNA nucleic acid molecule is comprised at least partially of ribonucleotide analogues.

Claim 39 (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein said structural gene sequence is about 20-30 nucleotides in length.

Claim 40 (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein said structural gene sequence is 23 nucleotides in length.

Claim 41 (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein said structural gene sequence is 22 nucleotides in length.

Claim 42 (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein said structural gene sequence is 21 nucleotides in length.

Claim 43 (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein said structural gene sequence is 20 nucleotides in length.

Claim 44 (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein said structural gene sequence is 19 nucleotides in length.

Claim 45 (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein said structural gene sequence is 18 nucleotides in length.

Claim 46 (New) The method according to any one of claims 39-45, wherein said at least two copies are about the same length.

Claim 47 (New) The method according to any one of claims 39-45, wherein said at least two copies are the same length.

Claim 48 (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein said at least two copies are in the same nucleic acid strand.

Claim 49 (New) The method according to claim 48, wherein said at least two copies are separated by at least one nucleic acid stuffer sequence.

Claim 50 (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein said at least two copies are in separate nucleic acid strands.

Claim 51 (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein said first RNA sequence is identical to the region of said target gene and second RNA sequence is identical to the complement of said region of said target gene.

Claim 52 (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising:

a first RNA sequence, the sequence being at least 80% identical to a region of a transcription product of a target gene,

a second RNA sequence, the sequence being at least 80% identical to an antisense copy of the region of the transcription product of the target gene;

wherein said first RNA sequence is about 20 - 30 nucleotides in length, and

wherein said nucleic acid molecule is capable of reducing expression of the target gene in an animal cell when the nucleic acid molecule is introduced into said animal cell.

Claim 53 (New) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 52, wherein said first RNA sequence is at least 90% identical to the region of the transcription product of the target gene and said second RNA sequence is at least 90% identical to the antisense copy of the region of the transcription product of the target gene.

Claim 54 (New) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 52, wherein said first RNA sequence is at least 95% identical to the region of the transcription product of the target gene and said second RNA sequence is at least 95% identical to the antisense copy of the region of the transcription product of the target gene.

Claim 55 (New) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 52, wherein said first and second RNA sequences consist essentially of ribonucleotides.

Claim 56 (New) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 52, wherein at least one of said first and second RNA sequences is comprised at least partially of ribonucleotide analogues.

Claim 57 (New) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 52, wherein said first RNA sequence is 24 nucleotides in length.

Claim 58 (New) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 52, wherein said first RNA sequence is 23 nucleotides in length.

Claim 59 (New) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 52, wherein said first RNA sequence is 22 nucleotides in length.

Claim 60 (New) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 52, wherein said first RNA sequence is 21 nucleotides in length.

Claim 61 (New) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 52, wherein said first RNA sequence is 20 nucleotides in length.

Claim 62 (New) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 52, wherein said first RNA sequence is 19 nucleotides in length.

Claim 63 (New) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 52, wherein said second RNA sequence is 18 nucleotides in length.

Claim 64 (New) The nucleic acid molecule according to any one of claims 57-63, wherein said first RNA sequence is about the same length as said second RNA sequence.

Claim 65 (New) The nucleic acid molecule according to any one of claims 57-63, wherein said first RNA sequence is the same length as the second RNA sequence.

Claim 66 (New) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 52, wherein the first and second RNA sequences are in the same nucleic acid strand.

Claim 67 (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 66, wherein the first and second RNA sequences are separated by a nucleic acid stuffer sequence.

Claim 68 (New) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 52, wherein the first and second RNA sequences are in separate nucleic acid strands.

Claim 69 (New) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 52, wherein the first RNA sequences is identical to said region of said transcription product of said target gene and said second RNA sequence is identical to said antisense copy of said region of said transcription product of said target gene.